

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
2. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid consists of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an antigen.
4. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of a microbial antigen, a cancer antigen, and an allergen.
5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the microbial antigen is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial antigen, a viral antigen, a fungal antigen and a parasitic antigen.
6. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the antigen is encoded by a nucleic acid vector.
7. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the nucleic acid vector is separate from the immunostimulatory nucleic acid.
8. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the antigen is a peptide antigen.
9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an adjuvant.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 9, wherein the adjuvant is a mucosal adjuvant.
11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a cytokine.
12. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of an anti-microbial agent, an anti-cancer agent, and an allergy/asthma medicament.
13. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein the anti-microbial agent is selected from the group consisting of an anti-bacterial agent, an anti-viral agent, an anti-fungal agent, and an anti-parasite agent.
14. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 12, wherein the anti-cancer agent is selected from the group consisting of a chemotherapeutic agent, a cancer vaccine, and an immunotherapeutic agent.
15. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 12, wherein the allergy/asthma medicament is selected from the group consisting of PDE-4 inhibitor, bronchodilator/beta-2 agonist, K⁺ channel opener, VLA-4 antagonist, neurokin antagonist, TXA₂ synthesis inhibitor, xanthanine, arachidonic acid antagonist, 5 lipoxygenase inhibitor, thromboxin A₂ receptor antagonist, thromboxane A₂ antagonist, inhibitor of 5-lipoxygenase activation protein, and protease inhibitor.
16. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid has a nucleotide backbone which includes at least one phosphorothioate backbone modification.
- 17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 16, wherein the nucleotide backbone is entirely modified.
20. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid includes more than four CpG motifs.
- 23.-26. (Canceled)
27. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is formulated as a nutritional supplement.
28. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 27, wherein the nutritional supplement is formulated as a capsule, a pill, or a sublingual tablet.
29. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is formulated for local administration.
30. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is formulated for parenteral administration.
31. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is formulated in a sustained release device.

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is formulated for delivery to a mucosal surface.

33.-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31, wherein the sustained release device is a microparticle.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Withdrawn) A method for stimulating an immune response in a subject in need thereof comprising

administering to a subject an immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, in an amount effective to stimulate an immune response.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the subject has or is at risk of developing an infection.

47.-49. (Canceled)

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the subject has or is at risk of developing allergy.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the subject has or is at risk of developing asthma.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the subject has or is at risk of developing a cancer.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising administering an antigen to the subject.

54.-56. (Canceled)

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the immune response is an antigen-specific immune response.

58.-62. (Canceled)

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising administering to the subject a second therapeutic agent.

64.-69. (Canceled)

70. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid has a nucleotide backbone which includes at least one phosphorothioate backbone modification.

71-72. (Canceled)

73. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the nucleotide backbone is entirely modified.

74.-75. (Canceled)

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered orally.

77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered locally.

78. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered parenterally.

79. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered in a sustained release device.

80. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered to a mucosal surface.

81.-83. (Canceled)

84. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising isolating an immune cell from the subject, contacting the immune cell with an effective amount to activate the immune cell of the immunostimulatory nucleic acid and re-administering the activated immune cell to the subject.

85.-87. (Canceled)

88. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the subject is a human.

89.-94. (Canceled)

95. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising administering an antibody specific for a cell surface antigen, and wherein the immune response results in antigen dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC).

96. (Canceled)

97. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing an innate immune response, comprising administering to the subject an immunostimulatory nucleic acid in an amount effective for activating an innate immune response, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid has a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

98. (Canceled)

99. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is up to 100 nucleotides in length.

100. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is up to 100 nucleotides in length.